



**State Treasurer
Phil Angelides**



**State Superintendent of
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Jack O'Connell**

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION O'CONNELL,
STATE TREASURER ANGELIDES, AND LT. GOVERNOR BUSTAMANTE
JOIN SACRAMENTO STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND EDUCATION LEADERS
TO OPPOSE GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION CUTS**

*As Budget Debate Enters Final Stages, State's Top Education and Fiscal Officials
Renew Statewide Effort to Fight Governor's Broken Promise that Shortchanges Schools
by \$3.1 Billion*

SACRAMENTO, CA – California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, and Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante today joined with students, teachers, and educational leaders at Phoebe Hearst Elementary School to demand the Governor keep his promise to fully fund education in California. Today's event, coming as the budget negotiations enter the final stages, marks the beginning of a renewed statewide effort by Constitutional leaders fighting Governor Schwarzenegger's budget that shortchanges Proposition 98 and our schoolchildren by \$3.1 billion – over \$15,000 per classroom.

"What's at stake is much more than the \$3.1 billion owed to our students and our schools," O'Connell said. "What's at stake is Proposition 98 itself and the guarantee of at least a minimum level of funding for education in our state. We can not afford to undermine the stability provided by Proposition 98 that is essential to the survival of our local schools."

"We must do what's right for California and fight for a balanced budget that puts education first," said Treasurer Angelides. "If California and its children are to succeed in the global economy of the 21st century, we must stand up to the Governor's litany of broken promises and take the high road to prosperity by increasing educational opportunities for the next generation of Californians."

Superintendent O'Connell and Treasurer Angelides led a statewide tour earlier this year to mobilize opposition to the Governor's January budget that included cuts to education and massive new borrowing. O'Connell and Angelides have consistently stood up the Governor proposals to burden kids with debt while limiting their educational opportunities.

When O'Connell and Angelides launched their tour in January, the Governor had recently broken his explicit promise that the voter-approved, Proposition 98 school funding guarantee would be suspended only "over my dead body."

While breaking that promise, the Governor made a new vow – he pledged that schools would receive funds if revenues increased. Now he has broken that promise, too – the Governor's newly revised budget commits merely \$126 million to schools of the recent \$4.2 billion in increased revenues to the State. Astonishingly, he now denies ever making these commitments.

In his May Budget Revision, Governor Schwarzenegger did not include any new ongoing Proposition 98 funds, leaving California 8th from the bottom in school funding compared to all other states in the nation. And Governor Schwarzenegger is also supporting a ballot initiative that would permanently eviscerate Proposition 98 and eliminate the State's commitment to pay back money borrowed from education. As a result, school budgets throughout California would be rendered perennially unstable, and California would remain in the basement of per-pupil school funding.

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